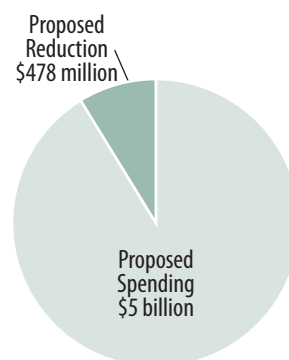


# Human Services

As a society, we recognize the importance of taking care of the most vulnerable among us. Whether it's children whose families are unable or unwilling to take care of them, or severely disabled adults, Washington citizens endeavor to help with food, shelter and physical safety resources. Governor Gregoire's proposed budget serves Washington's children and most vulnerable citizens with essential services as it achieves administrative efficiencies and promotes greater self-sufficiency.



## Goals

- » Protect vulnerable populations.
- » Preserve access to essential services.
- » Maintain safety.
- » Maintain core state services.
- » Promote cost effectiveness.
- » Promote self-sufficiency.
- » Maintain evidence-based programs.
- » Maintain some prevention activities.

## What We Invest In

### Child welfare services

Protecting children is primarily the responsibility of families. The state intervenes to protect children only when families are unable to. When children must be removed due to abuse or neglect, they are provided with foster care. We provide services that build on family strengths to prevent out-of-home placements and reunify families when placement occurs. Services include counseling, assessments and child care.

*(\$352.2 million General Fund-State, \$179 million GF-F)*

### Adoption support services

Placing children in permanent homes is a top priority. More than 11,000 families with adopted children receive a cash payment to cover their needs. Adopted children may also receive evaluation and counseling services, and families may access child care and respite services. *(\$90.0 million GF-S, \$82.0 million GF-F)*

### Adolescent services

Adolescents who run away from home or are in conflict with their parents have safe alternatives from the streets. Services include short-term stays in crisis residential centers where counseling with a family reunification emphasis is provided. Youth may access the responsible living skills program for safe housing and services to successfully transition to independent living. *(\$16.8 million GF-S, \$18.2 million GF-F)*

**In-home services for the elderly and people with developmental disabilities**

Washington is a leader in long-term care services that allow 30,000 individuals to remain independent by providing care in their homes rather than in an institutional setting. More than 12,000 individuals with developmental disabilities receive Medicaid personal care services to assist with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and eating. (*\$955.0 million GF-S, \$979.2 million GF-F*)

**Residential services for the elderly or physically disabled**

Nursing homes serve 10,800 Medicaid clients. Adult family homes and boarding homes offer an alternative for the 10,500 elderly or other individuals with disabilities who cannot remain in their own homes but do not need nursing home care. (*\$503.7 million GF-S, \$685.7 million GF-F*)

**Residential services for people with developmental disabilities**

Residential habilitation centers provide services for 1,000 clients with developmental disabilities. Supported living, boarding homes, adult family homes and state-operated residences provide an alternative for the 5,400 clients no longer able to remain in their own homes and who choose to live in the community. (*\$486.6 million GF-S, \$550.4 million GF-F*)

**Place additional individuals with developmental disabilities on the Medicaid waiver.** The 2,500 clients with developmental disabilities who receive employment and day services paid solely with state funds are transitioned to the Medicaid waiver if they are Medicaid eligible. This makes them eligible for more services, but federal funding reduces costs to the state. (*\$12.8 million GF-S, \$14.8 million GF-F*)

**Employment and day services for individuals with developmental disabilities**

About 9,400 adults receive assistance to find and maintain employment. (*\$85.3 million GF-S, \$63.2 million GF-F*)

**In-patient and out-patient mental health services**

The state provides crisis intervention and inpatient treatment services to individuals in acute mental health distress who are gravely disabled, or a danger to themselves or others. The state also funds intensive, community-based outpatient treatment services to Medicaid-eligible individuals with significant disabilities through partnerships with Regional Support Networks. (*\$881.0 million GF-S, \$664.0 million GF-F*)

**Child support collections for TANF**

Child support is collected for more than 380,000 families each month. Mirroring changes in federal law, families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance may now keep a portion of the child support funds collected by the state. Child support collected for families not on TANF go directly to the family. (*\$27.3 million GF-S*)

**WorkFirst grant and services**

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grants are provided to more than 53,000 families through the WorkFirst program. Parents participate in activities that help them prepare for work and achieve self-sufficiency. Post-TANF career services help families maintain employment. (*\$464.0 million GF-S, \$828.0 million GF-F*)

## Food programs

More than 642,000 clients now receive food stamps. Recently expanded eligibility for the state's Basic Food Program is maintained for households with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Funding for the state's food bank programs also is maintained. An additional \$5 million will expand the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides funding and food for distribution to local food banks and meal providers. *(\$76.6 million GF-S, \$50.5 million GF-F)*

## Initiative 1029 background checks and training

Although the higher training requirement of Initiative 1029 is suspended for two years, its most important feature — new federal background checks for home care workers — is being implemented. Computer system preparation work is included to prepare for the training and certification requirements that will take effect in the 2011–13 biennium. *(\$1.2 million GF-S, \$1.2 million GF-F)*

## How We Achieve Savings

**Discontinuation of the Adult Day Health program.** This primarily Medicaid-funded program serves about 1,900 elderly and adults with developmental disabilities. *(\$20.3 million GF-S, \$20.3 million GF-F)*

**Elimination of funding for child welfare pilots** to provide additional training for foster parents caring for high-needs children. *(\$2.6 million GF-S)*

**Elimination of secure crisis residential centers.** High-cost placements are eliminated and lower-cost residential services for adolescents in conflict are retained. These services include Hope beds, semi-secure crisis residential services and responsible living skills placements. *(\$9.4 million GF-S)*

**Reduction of nursing home reimbursement rates.** Medicaid nursing home rates are adjusted every two years. As of July 1, 2009, the average rate is projected to increase 2.5 percent. From that point, rates are reduced 7.5 percent, so the net reduction will be 5 percent. *(\$46.2 million GF-S, \$42.6 million GF-F)*

**Consolidation of residential habilitation centers.** Yakima Valley School is closed. The 98 residents will be transferred to community residential settings, private nursing homes or another institution. *(\$1.0 million GF-S, \$600,000 GF-F)*

**Reduction of funding for mental health services** through local Regional Support Networks. The non-Medicaid rate is by reduced by 7.4 percent and the Medicaid rate by 3.2 percent. *(\$30.5 million GF-S)*

**Elimination of grants to individuals** in the General Assistance-Unemployable program. Monthly grants are no longer provided to approximately 21,000 individuals in the GA-U program and 6,500 clients in the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support Act program. Effects of this action will be partially offset by \$20 million provided for additional emergency housing and \$40 million to community clinics. *(\$160.6 million GF-S)*

**Increase of accountability** in the WorkFirst program. Reductions in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) caseloads are expected by streamlining the sanction process and by helping parents move to work more quickly. *(\$30.4 million GF-S)*

**Other reductions including pension changes.** *(\$177.0 million GF-S and other funds)*